The Women's
National
Indian Association.

Seven Ways to Help Indians

NOVEMBER
1890.

SEVEN WAYS TO HELP INDIANS.

ANNUAL ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT,

MRS. AMELIA S. QUINTON,

November, 1890.

There is an accidental appropriateness in the fact that again with the returning Indian summer we have met for our annual greetings, our exchange of reports, and in answer to the query "What of the night?" to call cheerily to those near, and far off, in interest in our cause, "The morning cometh." Not only can we thus make answer in general faith on the surely promised making "straight" of all "crooked" things, the leveling of all things unduly exalted, and the exaltation of all things selfishly placed below their due level, but significant events stand like pillars all along the path of the year as witnesses that no other November was ever so bright as this for the red man.

Indian citizenship has begun. For some thousands it is an accomplished fact. Indian lands long menaced by border outlaws, have been bought by government as homes for loyal citizens, and the reign of law where anarchy before had sway, has begun, though law in Indian Territory is yet far from securing ideal justice to all

its people. Two officials, the best by public and popular admission ever serving as Commissioner of Indian Affairs and Superintendent of Indian Education, have been confirmed in office, after a contest so close as to give great anxiety to friends of the race we are trying to help. A bill for despoiling the Colorado Utes of their well situated agricultural lands and consigning those people to even worse than past barbarism, has been defeated. General and educational appropriations, which are really but instalments of our national moral debt to Indians, have been increased under circumstances which give special meaning to that increase. Selfish greed and the uncivilized white man's coveting of what is the Indian's own, at last stand out against an illuminated background of righteous public sentiment, and in Judgment day consciousness are fain to flee away and hide their ghoulish figures and features. Much has been accomplished ; little, compared with what should be and is to be gained, yet enough for a sure token of the work remaining to be done. We shall perceive what remains to be done in glancing at what has been gained.

INDIAN LEGISLATION OF THE YEAR.

About 230 bills regarding Indians have been introduced in Congress, and of the 13 which, up to April 1st, became law, seven were for rights of way, for bridges and grants of land to railway companies across Indian tracts ; and of 88 Senate and House Indian reports made, 29 refer also to railways and rights of way. These facts show, most illuminatingly, the kind of parental care over Indians which is by far the most popular in Con-

gress. There are still 700 Senate bills held by the House Indian Committee, but most of these, probably, are no loss to the Indian until he is well confirmed in his rights as a citizen of the United States. Comparatively few House bills await Senate action, but these should be narrowly watched, for the work so well and efficiently done by the women of this Association in the several crises of the past year may easily need repetition in the one to come. Never in any previous year was there more or better service of this sort done by our many Secretaries and Press Committees. Your response, quick, intelligent and telling, in the way of letters secured from your leading citizens to your own representatives in Congress ; your short and pointed statements in your own local newspapers, embodying the facts of the cases served, marked and sent to your own members of Congress, as well as to the President and Secretary of the Interior,—all these, as we know from official letters sent us from Washington, were a power for good, and constituted an influential factor in crises when, had these been wanting, the close victory might have been a bare defeat. This fact is inspiration enough for work in the near future, when bills for the surveys of tribal lands may come up, the $20,000 already appropriated for this purpose being not enough ; when bills for the relief of tribes greatly wronged, and, it may be, new bills for the unjust removal of tribes, will need your help for passage or defeat.

ALLOTMENT OF LAND.

The work of dividing their lands in severalty to

Indians has been done among the Omahas and Winnebagoes of Nebraska; the Grande Ronde reservation, Oregon; the Yankton of South Dakota; that of the Eastern Shawnees of Indian Territory, and for the Oneidas of Wisconsin. This division has also been partially made among the Wyandottes, the Pottawatomies, the Absentee Shawnees and the Senecas of I. T.; among the Sisseton and Wahpeton Sioux; the Crows of Montana; the Warm Springs and Siletz Indians of Oregon; to the Peorias, Miamis, and some others, and is still in progress, in Miss Fletcher's experienced and able hands, among the Nez Perces of Idaho. Probably allotments are going forward as fast on the whole, as the Indians can adjust themselves to the new order of things; and so long as this division of lands in severalty opens a large surplus to white settlement none need fear apathy on the part of the white man regarding the benefit to Indians of such allotment.

INDIAN EDUCATION,

Has made a decided advance of late, the little $20,000 appropriated fourteen years ago having swollen to nearly $2,000,000 during the last year, and with growing favor towards the three millions now asked by Gen. Morgan as the next appropriation for Indian education. The public, especially the Christian public, is also coming more and more to share the view of the Indian Commissioner leading towards providing common school education out of the public funds for all Indians of school age, just as, and for the same reasons that, the children of all races in our country are thus educated. This, as

one small indemnity for the great wrongs the tribes have received from our nation, is generally recognized as morally due. It is true that special treaties do covenant with some tribes to provide schools for their children in payment of debts due for lands relinquished; and, that these debts should be promptly paid, to the last dollar, all honest men and women will agree, and such payment will greatly reduce the demand for new Indian educational funds.

Were all Indian children provided with common schools modified to meet the needs of different localities, the churches would undoubtedly, after an interval for preparation, successfully care for all schools devoted to the religious nurture and training of Indians. It is always safe to go towards the ideal, and the people, who, behind any system, give efficiency to any plan, will make the ideal method the practical one as surely as it is clearly and perseveringly shown them. And this because of the recognized basis of things. Because God is ideal goodness, ideal wisdom, and because he commands his children to be like him in character, and because before this can be done as we all know, we must adopt ideal principles and ideal methods. The men and women who have accomplished most in this world have been those who have asked most from it; and He who asked, and asks, us to be perfect because our Father in heaven is perfect, is now the dominant power on earth and is more and more making the world see that He is so. And because of all these things men get what they ask of God when they also ask it of men. Garrison asked for no less than the abolition of American slavery, and it was

granted, while all the compromises sank into their merited and everlasting oblivion. Let us remember that the Divine covenant which calls for making all "crooked things straight," includes all political measures and methods, and that the talk of the folly of ideal principles and methods really charges the heavenly host, and Christ, and God, with folly. "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven," we pray, and it is the business of the Christian life to answer this prayer in human principles and methods. Christian idealism takes the straight line to an end, and the straight line is always the shortest line. Christian idealism is the best expediency, as nothing dishonorable is ever of lasting service. The nation, like the man, adopting crooked ways falls behind in real results, and the righteous arrives first at the desired goal. And so it is that the shortest way to make the Indian of highest character and value in this nation is to train him according to the ideal principles and by the absolutely just methods.

It is one sign of the progress of the times that Commissioner Morgan now proposes to aid capable and aspiring Indian pupils by providing $167 each per annum for higher education, to fit them for better work among their people, and this will, we hope, greatly reduce the need of work by our department of Special Indian Education, though not providing for all cases meriting help.

OUR SEVEN DEPARTMENTS ;

And to name them is to invite all possible help through them. We have now seven well-defined departments

of service, and as they are named, in chronological order reversed, all will see that by these the way is opened for any friend of Indians to help them in any preferred way by one of our departments. Through these, during the year, between eighteen and twenty thousand dollars have been disbursed, and had all moneys expended by our branches been reported the sum would probably have reached $30,000.

The latest, the seventh department, on Indian Libraries, is for furnishing reading matter, books, periodicals, etc., to returned Indian students, and by it we hope also to furnish books for libraries in Indian schools, East and West, and for reading rooms on the reservations which will be centers of good influence, and are greatly needed as places of rendezvous for returned students, where, by fellowship and mutual encouragement these may keep, and increase their civilization and Christianity. The value of this line of help needs no comment. All inquiries regarding it, and all proffers of help through it should be addressed to the Chairman who originated it and made it a success, Miss Frances C. Sparhawk, Newton Centre, Mass.

The sixth department is that of Indian Civilization Work, Miss Grace Howard, Crow Creek Agency, South Dakota, chairman. There has long been need of a labor bureau on the reservations through which civilized work may be obtained at self-supporting wages by returned students and others needing it, and it is hoped that this department will come to be such a bureau, or at least that it can help to inaugurate one. Miss Howard has established a home which is a center of help and civiliza-

tion among the Indians where it is, and she is learning wants and methods of help, and sending forward suggestions looking towards what is needed on this hitherto unprovided line of aid.

The fifth or Young People's Department, Miss Marie E. Ives, of New Haven, chairman, has made a successful beginning in waking the interest of bands of children, Christian Endeavor Societies, King's Daughters, Helping Hands, and similar orders which are now working for Indians in various ways and will send their help where Miss Ives sees greatest need of it. One band of four young girls in New York netted $325, as the result of a little fair, all their own, and that fund will help buy land for an Indian mission. As will be recognized, this department can be indefinitely extended and made the means of almost limitless service.

The fourth division is that of Special Indian Education, Mrs. S. H. Bullard, of Boston, chairman, and when it is added that on this line of service our Connecticut auxiliary gave to Dr. Susan LaFlesche, an Omaha, her medical education, and to two other young Indian women a two years' course in professional nursing; that the gifts of other auxiliaries aided in the medical education of Thomas Miles, a Sac and Fox Indian; in the law course of a Nez Perce; in the training of Sarah Waite, a Cherokee in Oberlin College, preparing for Christian work among her people; towards the art education of another, and in help of others, the great value of this division will at once be seen. The secretary of this department is Miss Alice Byington, Stockbridge, Mass.

The third department, that of Indian Home Building by loan funds, and for granting small loans

with which to buy a pair of horses, oxen, a wagon, a mowing machine, a sewing machine, a loom, etc., is well known and most highly appreciated as the division under the care of Mrs. S. T. Kinney, president of our Connecticut auxiliary and vice-president of this Association, her state society having built the first one of the forty or fifty of the cottage homes, erected or improved by the loans of our various State auxiliaries. To enable educated Indian pairs thus to establish themselves in civilized and Christian homes is not only to open to them at once a new life and to put them far forward on the desired path, but is to make them and their homes means of great stimulation and encouragement to others. Details of this most interesting and valuable kind of work, originated at Hampton Institute by Miss Alice C. Fletcher, are given in our leaflets, and like those of the other departments, may be had of the Corresponding Secretary.

The second or Missionary Department, Miss Sarah M. Taylor, of Philadelphia present chairman, has for six years wrought for the establishment of missions in tribes wholly destitute of Christian teaching. Securing land when practicable and building a home and chapel for missionaries, it has opened directly or indirectly, or influentially helped to open such work at more than twenty stations, transferring the missions when well started, to the care and possession of denominational societies, giving to the latter also all the property on such transference. The work of these missions has included sewing schools, Sunday-schools, night schools, two day schools, an Association of Indian women, Sunday services, teaching in domestic arts, the home care of the sick and

hospital work, and this department will soon build its first hospital building. It has erected four missionary cottages and four chapels, will soon build another chapel, and has done work in twenty tribes or remnants of tribes. The result of this work no words can estimate. The Association's present fields are among the Bannocks and Shoshones, the Mission and Digger Indians of California, while other stations will soon be opened among the Seminoles of Florida, and, it is hoped, among the Navajos of New Mexico, the Apaches of Arizona, the Piegans of Montana, and in other tribes.

The department of Indian Legislation, our first one, has been served from the beginning of our work, now nearly twelve years, and showed more activity and efficiency the past year than ever before. The present Chairman of the committee is Miss Kate Foote, whose name and literary work are well and widely known. She can be addressed at the Fredonia Hotel, Washington, D. C.

IN CONCLUSION.

We stand in the presence of a great cause and are trying to help answer the real Indian question now remaining. It is for every Christian American a personal one, and this: "Shall I help to end the political, industrial, mental and spiritual night of the red man and reflect upon him the day which has dawned upon me?" There is no longer any one set of circumstances which can be called "the Indian situation." The situation varies for every tribe, and we must help these tribes, one by one, by legislation, by industrial knowledge, by home building,

and by Christian teaching. And we must help families at need, one by one. We have, therefore, reached the most interesting period of Indian work. We now see the Indian question in the concrete, and the case is one of life, worthy life for Indians, or one of death by slow and torturing degrees of lost manhood, degradation, sin and despair. We talk of effete races. Effete races? There should be no effete races so long as God creates man in his own image, and so long as fallen man can be remoulded into the image of Christ by the knowledge of Christ. Do the fifteen millions of Christians in America who hold this Divine knowledge really believe in its power to redeem and develop the quarter of a million of native American heathen? If we really, vitally believe in this instrumentality we shall use it.

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WOMEN'S NATIONAL INDIAN ASSOCIATION.

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1823 Arch St., Philadelphia, Pa.

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P. O. box 350, Philadelphia, Pa.

Treasurer,
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2105 Spruce St., Philadelphia, Pa.

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